

**SENATE EMPLOYMENT, WORKPLACE RELATIONS AND EDUCATION
LEGISLATION COMMITTEE**

**2005-2006 SUPPLEMENTARY BUDGET SENATE ESTIMATES HEARING
2 and 3 NOVEMBER 2005**

EMPLOYMENT AND WORKPLACE RELATIONS PORTFOLIO

QUESTIONS ON NOTICE

OFFICE OF THE EMPLOYMENT ADVOCATE

Question Number: W536-06

Question:

Senator Campbell asked at *Hansard* pages 46 and 47:

Could the OEA provide figures on the number of enquiries Job Watch has taken with regard to AWA's over the last 3 years under the terms of their current contract?

Answer:

JobWatch has reported to the OEA that over the last three financial years the organisation has received a total of 334 enquiries which relate to AWAs. This amounts to 0.37% of all AWAs lodged/approved over this same period in Victoria.

JobWatch has also provided data of AWA related enquiries over the last 6 years to the Senate Employment, Workplace Relations and Education Committee. In the submission, JobWatch reports that over the six financial years to 30 June 2005, JobWatch received 595 AWA related enquiries. This amounts to 0.45% of all AWAs lodged/approved over this same period in Victoria.

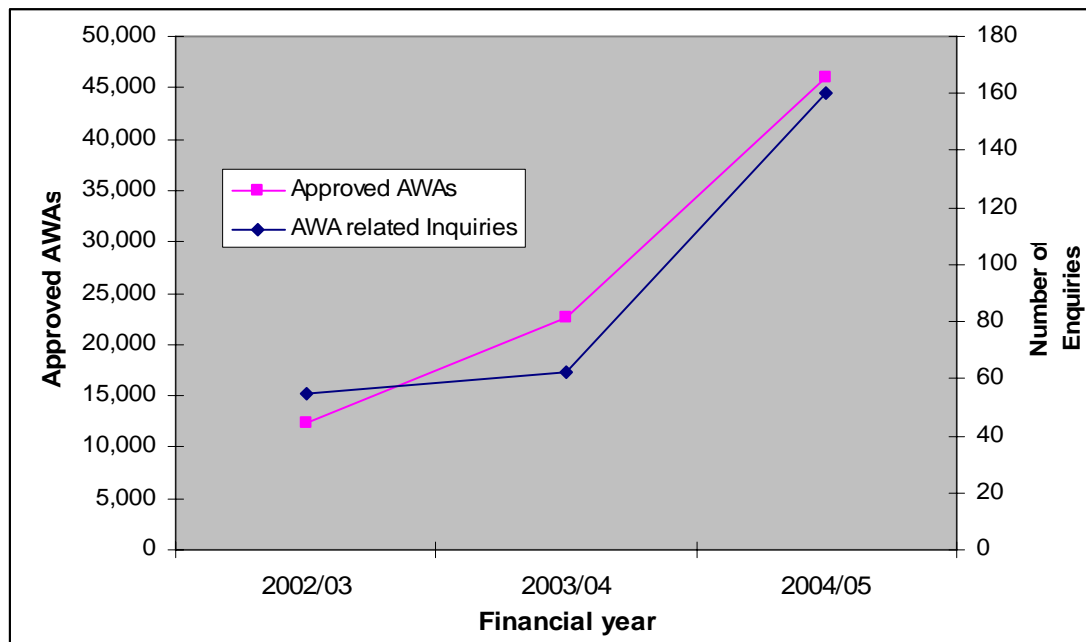
AWA related enquiries typically comprise a minority of enquiries to the agency, comprising approximately 2% of all enquiries to JobWatch. As can be seen in Table 1, this equates to an average of less than 60 enquiries every quarter. As AWAs become more prevalent in Victoria, the proportion of AWA related enquiries also appears to be increasing, although at 2.4% in the June 2005 quarter (the latest available data), this proportion is statistically insignificant when compared with other issues dealt with by JobWatch such as award breach enquiries and those regarding unfair dismissal.

The number of AWAs approved for Victorian employees has increased rapidly over the last two financial years, growing by 83% from 2002/03 to 2003/04 and then by more than double the following year. Figure 1 shows that the increase in AWA related enquiries received by JobWatch are proportionate to the increase in AWAs in the State.

Table 1 - AWA related enquiries to JobWatch

PERIOD	NUMBER OF AWA ENQUIRIES
July 2005 to September 2005	57
April 2005 to June 2005	55
January 2005 to March 2005	31
September 2004 to December 2004	59
June 2004 to August 2004	22
March 2004 to May 2004	19
December 2003 to February 2004	15
September 2003 to November 2003	7
June 2003 to August 2003	21
March 2003 to May 2003	13
December 2002 to February 2003	14
September 2002 to November 2002	21
TOTAL	334

Figure 1 AWAs approved in Victoria and AWA enquiries received by JobWatch¹



¹ As can be seen in Table 1, the timeframes for the AWA related enquiry data do not fit exactly into financial years. Consequently the data has been adjusted as follows: one third of the June 2003 to August 2003 data has been attributed to 2003/04 and similarly one third of the June 2004 to August 2004 data has been attributed to 2004/05.